



## Management and Protection of Key Biodiversity Areas in Belize (P130474)

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN | Belize | Environment & Natural Resources Global Practice |  
Global Environment Project | Investment Project Financing | FY 2015 | Seq No: 7 | ARCHIVED on 01-Jun-2018 | ISR32570 |

Implementing Agencies: Ministry of Forestry, Fisheries, and Sustainable Development, Protected Areas Conservation Trust, Belize

### Key Dates

#### Key Project Dates

Bank Approval Date:29-Sep-2014

Effectiveness Date:26-Jan-2015

Planned Mid Term Review Date:26-Mar-2018

Actual Mid-Term Review Date:09-Apr-2018

Original Closing Date:30-Sep-2019

Revised Closing Date:30-Sep-2019

### Global Development Objectives

Global Environmental Objective (from Project Appraisal Document)

The Project Development Objective (PDO) is to strengthen natural resource management and biodiversity conservation in Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) of Belize.

Has the Global Environmental Objective been changed since Board Approval of the Project Objective?

No

### Components

Name

Component 1: Supporting Forest Protection and Sustainable Forest Management Activities in Key Biodiversity Areas:(Cost \$2.18 M)

Component 2: Promoting Effective Management of Key Biodiversity Areas:(Cost \$2.29 M)

Component 3: Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building for Enhanced Enforcement of Environmental Regulations:(Cost \$1.00 M)

Component 4: Project Management, Monitoring and Assessment:(Cost \$0.61 M)

### Overall Ratings

Name	Previous Rating	Current Rating
Progress towards achievement of PDO	● Moderately Satisfactory	● Moderately Unsatisfactory
Overall Implementation Progress (IP)	● Moderately Satisfactory	● Moderately Unsatisfactory
Overall Risk Rating	● Substantial	● Substantial

### Implementation Status and Key Decisions



**Project Status Overview.** A mid-term review mission was conducted in Belize on April 9 to 13, 2018. The objectives of the MTR were to validate the findings of the independent mid-term evaluation conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, the Environment, Sustainable Development and Immigration (MAFFESDI) and to discuss any adjustments necessary to successfully implement the remaining activities.

#### Project Components:

##### Component 1: Supporting Forest Protection and Sustainable Forest Management in Key Biodiversity Areas

Progress made to date includes the following:

- 1 . Development of sustainable forest/protected area management plans for Vaca Forest Reserve (FR), Chiquibul National Park, and Spanish Creek Wildlife Sanctuary have been completed and the one for Freshwater Creek FR is underway;
- 2 . The operational plan and protocols have been developed and training and equipment have been delivered for the Fire Rapid Response Team (FIRRT) to effectively manage forest fires;
- 3 . An awareness raising program on sustainable forest management and forest fire prevention has been developed and implemented;
- 4 . A condensed version of a Knowledge, Attitude, and Practices (KAP) survey has been carried out;
- 5 . Five (5) Permanent Sample Plots (PSPs) have been established in the target sites and operational training provided to the FD staff;
- 6 . Training has been delivered to the FD staff in monitoring the impact of logging operations and in the implementation of a logging impacts tracking system; and
- 7 . An assessment is being conducted to identify the critical areas of high conservation values to be rehabilitated and forestry-based livelihoods opportunities by the local communities.

The following activities have been delayed and an action plan has been developed:

- 1 . An amendment to the Land Tenure Act.
- 2 . Community-based sub-projects to rehabilitate the degraded lands and to develop forestry-based livelihoods.
- 3 . Development of a management plan for the Columbia River FR (CRFR).

##### Component 2: Promoting Effective Management of Key Biodiversity Areas

Progress made to date includes the following:

- 1 . The National Protected Areas System Plan (NPASP) has been updated to take into account considerations of climate change mitigation and resilience.
- 2 . The Compliance Monitoring Unit (CMU) in the FD has been established with the Coordinator and five CMU officers on board. The compliance management plan and the compliance strategy have also been delivered.
- 3 . Development of information management systems for the DOE and the FD for environmental monitoring and compliance is underway.
- 4 . Training in Green Laws for law enforcement officers was delivered.
- 5 . An update to the Forest Act to improve the effectiveness of compliance and enforcement of the Act is underway.
- 6 . Demarcation of the boundaries in Vaca FR is underway.
- 7 . TOR for the biodiversity monitoring system for KBAs and capacity building in biodiversity monitoring have been developed.

The following activities have been delayed and are being planned in 2017:

- 1 . Establishment of procedures, criteria, and corresponding regulations for the declaration, re-alignment, and de-reservation of protected areas (PAs).
- 2 . Development of standard procedures for corresponding regulations, and support the administrative structure and coordination mechanism.
- 3 . Drafting a legislation for improved wildlife management.

##### Component 3: Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building for Enhanced Enforcement of Environmental Regulations

Progress made to date includes the following:

- 1 . Improvement of Belize's environmental impact assessment (EIA) program has been completed. Development of a manual with standardized guidelines and methodology for EIA preparation and the procedural manual for the National Environmental Appraisal Committee (NEAC) is pending.
- 2 . Strengthening institutional capacity of the Environmental Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Unit is underway.
- 3 . TOR for the water quality monitoring program have been developed.

##### Component 4: Project Management, Monitoring, and Assessment

**Project Management:** Capacity constraint of the Project Implementation Agency Group (PIAG) continues to be a challenge. An Administrative Assistant was hired recently to provide administrative support. The process to hire additional technical support is underway.

**Financial Management:** PACT has a financial management system in place to ensure that timely, accurate and reliable financial information is available to manage and monitor the project, and has further improved the previous successful actions in controls and systems.



**Procurement:** PACT has strengthened procurement capacity and been performing procurement processing in accordance with the WB Guidelines.

**Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E):** The current M&E effort is not sufficient and needs to improve in order to properly report progress on the results framework and the GEF management effectiveness tracking tools.

**Decision:** The MTR mission and the Government agreed on an action plan to accelerate the project implementation and to process a project restructuring in order to make adjustments necessary to achieve the Project objective.

## Risks

### Systematic Operations Risk-rating Tool

Risk Category	Rating at Approval	Previous Rating	Current Rating
Political and Governance	--	● Low	● Low
Macroeconomic	--	● Moderate	● Moderate
Sector Strategies and Policies	--	● Moderate	● Moderate
Technical Design of Project or Program	--	● Moderate	● Substantial
Institutional Capacity for Implementation and Sustainability	--	● Substantial	● Substantial
Fiduciary	--	● Moderate	● Moderate
Environment and Social	--	● Substantial	● Substantial
Stakeholders	--	● Substantial	● Substantial



Other	--	--	--
Overall	--	● Substantial	● Substantial

## Results

### Global Environmental Objective Indicators

#### ► Forest area brought under management plans(Hectare(Ha), Corporate)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	2,987.00	125,539.00	106,557.00
Date	28-Aug-2014	01-Dec-2017	15-May-2018	30-Sep-2019

#### Comments

The area is a sum of Vaca Forest Reserve, Spanish Creek Wildlife Sanctuary, and Chiquibul National Park.

#### ► Areas brought under enhanced biodiversity protection (ha)(Percentage, Custom)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	2,987.00	0.00	30.00
Date	28-Aug-2014	04-Dec-2017	15-May-2018	30-Sep-2019

#### Comments

This indicator is a core sector indicator which does not allow customization to be consistent with the PAD "Areas brought under enhanced biodiversity protection (ha) in the targeted KBAs (as measured by % increase in the GEF Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool)".

Since the unit is % increase, the previous data needs to be corrected.

The biodiversity monitoring activity is planned later this year. The data will be reported after the monitoring is carried out.



► People in forest&adjacent community with monetary/non-monetary benefit from forest(Percentage, Custom)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00
Date	28-Aug-2014	04-Dec-2017	15-May-2018	30-Sep-2019
Comments Development of community-based livelihoods sub-projects is planned later this year.				

▲ People in forest and adjacent community with benefits from forest-female(Percentage, Custom Breakdown)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.00
Date	28-Aug-2014	04-Dec-2017	15-May-2018	30-Sep-2019

▲ People in forest&adj. commy with benefit from forest-Ethnic minority/indigenous(Percentage, Custom Breakdown)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	0.00	25.00
Date	28-Aug-2014	04-Dec-2017	15-May-2018	30-Sep-2019

► Govt institutions provided w/ capacity buildg to improve mgt of forest resources(Number, Custom)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	2.00	4.00	4.00
Date	28-Aug-2014	04-Dec-2017	15-May-2018	30-Sep-2019
Comments The four government institutions which have received capacity building are the Forest Department, Belize Defense Force, Police, and the				



Department of the Environment.

This is a Core Sector Indicator, for which the system does not allow customization to be consistent with the PAD.

It is proposed to revise to measure the number of people trained including co-management organizations and relevant government officials and increased competency in monitoring and compliance and/or fire management.

#### Overall Comments

A project restructuring will be requested to revise and improve the results indicators and targets.

#### Intermediate Results Indicators

##### ► Reforms in forest policy, legislation or other regulations supported (Yes/No, Custom)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	N	Y	N	Y
Date	28-Aug-2014	04-Dec-2017	15-May-2018	30-Sep-2019

#### Comments

This indicator is phrased differently than the one in the PAD because it is a core sector indicator and the system does not allow customization. This will be corrected during the project restructuring.

As this indicator pertains to a review of the Land Tenure Act instead of the National Protected Area System Plan, it is corrected to "No".

##### ► At least 50 people trained and equipped in enforcement and forest fire reduction techniques (Number, Custom)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	49.00	91.00	50.00
Date	28-Aug-2014	04-Dec-2017	25-May-2018	30-Sep-2019



► Area restored or re/afforested (Hectare(Ha), Custom)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,425.00
Date	28-Aug-2014	04-Dec-2017	25-May-2018	30-Sep-2019

Comments

Rehabilitation activities are planned later this year. Thus, no data is applicable.

This indicator is phrased differently than the one in the PAD because it is a core sector indicator and the system does not allow customizing it. Also, it is proposed to change the target to 800 ha. This will be addressed during the project restructuring.

► Men and women engaged in Sub-projects supporting sustainable harvesting and marketing of NTFPs in target areas (Percentage, Custom)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00
Date	28-Aug-2014	04-Dec-2017	25-May-2018	29-Nov-2019

Comments

Livelihoods activities are planned later this year. Thus, no data is applicable.

It is proposed to delete this indicator as it overlaps with the PDO indicator on people with benefits from the forests.

► Forest Management Plans developed and implemented in the targeted forests (Number, Custom)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	1.00	1.00	4.00
Date	28-Aug-2014	04-Dec-2017	25-May-2018	29-Nov-2019

Comments

Among the four targeted Forest Reserves, the plan has been developed for Vaca Forest Reserve and the one for Freshwater Creek Forest Reserve is being developed.

It is proposed to combine this indicator with the intermediate indicator 2.2 on protected area management plans.



► 2.5 M mt CO2e due to avoided emissions and/or increased sequestration (Metric ton, Custom)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,500,000.00
Date	28-Aug-2014	04-Dec-2017	25-May-2018	29-Nov-2019

Comments

Five new permanent sampling plots (PSPs) have been established. Data processing is in order.

► Establishment of clear procedures and criteria for the declaration, re-alignment and de-reservation of PAs (Yes/No, Custom)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	N	N	N	Y
Date	28-Aug-2014	04-Dec-2017	25-May-2018	28-Dec-2018

Comments

This is planned later this year.

► Six (6) PA management plans developed and implemented in the targeted areas (Number, Custom)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	2.00	2.00	6.00
Date	28-Aug-2014	04-Dec-2017	04-Dec-2017	30-Sep-2019

Comments

This needs to be revised as there are only two protected areas to which a PA management plan is applicable. (Other project sites are forest reserves that require a forest management plan.)





► The 2005 National Protected Areas System Plan (NPASP) updated to incorporate climate change mitigation and resiliency measures (Yes/No, Custom)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	N	Y	Y	Y
Date	28-Aug-2014	04-Dec-2017	25-May-2018	30-Sep-2019

► Increased sightings of target indicator species (Percentage, Custom)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.00
Date	28-Aug-2014	04-Dec-2017	25-May-2018	30-Sep-2019

Comments

The biodiversity monitoring activity is planned later this year.

It is proposed to revise this indicator to a more generally accepted indicator to measure the improved quality of biodiversity (e.g., habitat health).

► Govt institutions provided w/ capacity buildg to improve mgt of forest resources (Number, Custom)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	2.00	2.00	20.00
Date	28-Aug-2014	04-Dec-2017	25-May-2018	30-Sep-2019

Comments

This indicator is phrased differently than the one in the PAD because it is a core sector indicator and the system does not allow customization. This indicator overlaps with the Intermediate Results Indicator #2, thus will be deleted.



► The EIA Program revised and the EIA Manual updated and endorsed (Yes/No, Custom)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	N	N	N	Y
Date	28-Aug-2014	04-Dec-2017	25-May-2018	30-Sep-2019

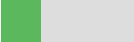
Comments

A review of the existing EIA program has been completed. An update to the EIA manual is pending.

Overall Comments

## Data on Financial Performance

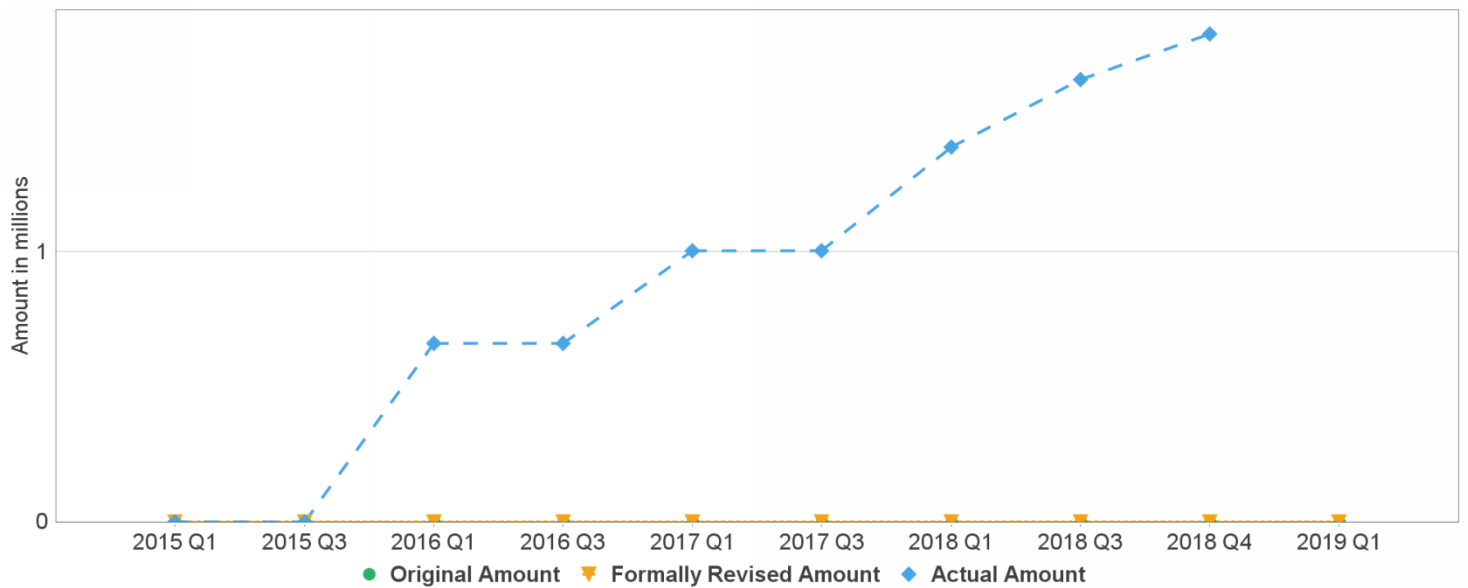
### Disbursements (by loan)

Project	Loan/Credit/TF	Status	Currency	Original	Revised	Cancelled	Disbursed	Undisbursed	Disbursed
P130474	TF-16773	Effective	USD	6.09	6.09	0.00	1.81	4.28	 30%

### Key Dates (by loan)

Project	Loan/Credit/TF	Status	Approval Date	Signing Date	Effectiveness Date	Orig. Closing Date	Rev. Closing Date
P130474	TF-16773	Effective	05-Nov-2014	05-Nov-2014	26-Jan-2015	30-Sep-2019	30-Sep-2019

### Cumulative Disbursements



## Restructuring History

Level 2 Approved on 02-Nov-2017

## Related Project(s)

There are no related projects.